

## FEEDBACK NETWORK:

### Mass Distribution

Email Date: November 27, 2013



**SUBJECT LINE:** Your State Health Care Innovation Plan Comments

***This email is being sent on behalf of Karen Merrikin, State Health Care Innovation Planning Project Director.***

On behalf of the state innovation planning team, thank you to the hundreds of people from Seattle to Spokane and Suquamish to Walla Walla for the time taken to meet, read, comment and otherwise share thoughts and wisdom on the State Health Care Innovation Plan. Reviewing the numbers, more than 1,000 people participated in meetings, interviews, surveys, and analysis.

This ongoing input—both supportive and constructively critical—reflects our collective passion about the opportunities we have to create better health and value for the people of Washington through retooling health care, improved payment systems, effective prevention and screening, and opportunities to connect physical health and behavioral health (including mental health and chemical dependency) services to the many other factors that contribute to well-being. Now, as we glean through hundreds of comments represented in 400 pages of documentation, we are looking closely at the big picture. Comments received span from supportive to critical (examples below), with a considerable amount of feedback in two key substantive areas:

- 1) Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs) and Accountable Risk-Bearing Entities (ARBES), with questions and concerns on what they will/won't be designed to do and how they should/shouldn't be structured.
- 2) The central and ongoing importance of supporting whole person care in both behavioral health and primary care settings, and some of the challenges in moving from where we are today to where we know we need to be.

### Examples of Comments:

*"We firmly agree that the health system must move to better incorporate behavioral health into overall medical care; coordinate community, social, and human services into care for vulnerable populations; and transition to a payment structure that rewards value, outcomes, and patient experience over volume."* – A major health carrier serving Washington State

*"The regional concept has some potential benefit if done in a way that supports local health needs. Our suggestion is that Regions need to be defined by the counties themselves and allowed to be self-determining in the partnerships they assess best meet the needs of their population.....Further we endorse a model that includes a true integration of behavioral health and primary care beyond a single funding system. Any such effort must preserve the unique clinical approaches that behavioral health brings and ensure that the medical model not be the determining theoretical framework for service delivery."* – A county health department

Our analysis and response to your comments began on Saturday morning, November 16, when we began a careful process of assessing every comment submitted and recorded to that point. We have continued that process for the past 12 days, organizing participating DOH, DSHS and HCA staff, as well as key partners, to re-examine and refine the language for both context and clarity. Your comments have inspired adjustments in many areas, including improved clarity on the intended flexibility of the plan to address regional population and service needs, and the central role of local government/health jurisdictions in driving and supporting change.

**In preparation for our December deadline, the following will be accomplished:**

- In the next two weeks, all areas of the plan will be completed.
- Before December ends, the final State Health Care Innovation Plan will be delivered on behalf of the Governor to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (the funder) and posted on the SHCIP website, along with a document theming public comments and outlining how they were addressed in the plan.

In just seven months, we have created a vision and framework for health care transformation for Washington State. In another month, the revised plan will be ready and available to guide our collective ongoing work. It is a starting place—not an end. As many have noted in recent weeks, the planning process has jump-started development of a roadmap for transformation that will continue to evolve and translate into concrete action steps as we proceed on our state’s collaborative innovation journey.

With appreciation,

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